(C O P Y)

October 26, 1937.

S
Insect Control
Annual Report

Chief, Forest Service,
Washingtom, D. C.

Dear Sir:

A summary of the reports received from the Supervisors covering insect conditions in each of the forests of the Region gives a picture of the conditions for the Region during the past year.

The insect population and damage to the forests in general appear to have greatly decreased from last year. All forests show normal conditions, except the Lincoln, Carson, Santa Fe and Coconino.

Lincoln Forest

The Lincoln Forest reports an increase in the amount of damage by bark beetles over last year, and also in area within the pine type, both on Sacramento Mountain and in the Ruidoso country of the White Mountain Division of the Forest. There is also considerable insect damage in the pine stands on the Mescalero Indian Reservation located between these two divisions. The Indian Service has done some and is expecting to continue control work on the Reservation. During the past number of years there has been considerable cutting of timber on private lands within the two divisions of the forest, and also on the Indian Reservation. This cutting is continuing at a slower rate and also some scattered cutting of mine props and other small forest products is being made from some of this private cutover land. The bark beetles appear to have gradually built up until now they are doing considerable damage especially to the pole stands on the cutover areas. The bark beetles doing the most damage appear to be Dendroctonus convexifrons and approximatus with some Ips. They are attacking the young, healthy trees in the pole stands on cutover areas and mature trees in groups in the virgin standsof timber.

During 1936 and 1937, control work with CCC crews was undertaken covering some 5000 acres of the scattered groups of beetle-killed trees, and in pole stands covered by timber stand improvement work. The work on these areas appears very successful in controlling the spread of the insect damage. It is planned to use about 150 CCC men during this fall and winter period (November, 1937 to April, 1938) on insect control work on the Sacramento Mountain area. Control work will also be undertaken on the Ruidoso area during the coming winter if cooperation from the private land owners can be secured.

Carson and Santa Fe Forests

Last year the Carson Forest report showed some damage from Dendroctonus beetles on the Taos Division and on adjoining private lands. Areas were examined in June, 1937, and it was found that there were a very small number of new trees killed or showing up at that time, except one area on the Rio Pueblo drainage. Control work was planned for this area to start in October or November, 1937. Examination of this area during the last of September showed a great decreasein the number of new trees attacked this fall. An ERA control crew will cover this area during the fall and winter and take out insect infested trees.

Spruce budworms have been active in the fir and spruce stands of the Carson and Santa Fe Forests for several years past. The damage from these appears much less severe this year than for the past years.

Both the Carson and Santa Fe Forests report a decline in the attacks on aspen stands by the tent caterpillar over practically all of the aspen area, which has been infested for the past several years. A new area was observed on the Carson within the Rio Pueblo drainage late in the summer. This is the only new area of the tent caterpillar reported this year on these two forests. A WPA control project, sponsored by the New Mexico State Game and Fish Department, was set up in 1936, to study methods of control of the tent caterpillar. This study has been conducted by Mr. Norman Appleton, an entomologist. The study has been along the lines of natural methods of control. A small number of tent caterpillar parasites have been released during the past summer on areas of heavy infestation. Results of the release of these parasites will not be known for one or two years.

An ERA crew of 15 men worked at bark beetle control during November, 1936 to February, 1937, in Gallinas Canyon on the Pecos Division of the Santa Fe. This area is within the spruce and fir types, with a heavy recreational use. The trees treated were mostly spruce with a few Douglas fir. The insects doing most of the damage were Dendroctonus engelmanni and pseudotsuga. An examination of the area in August, 1937, showed no new killed trees on the area covered by control work, which indicates the success of the work. A large decrease in damage on the Pecos Division, especially within the Pecos River drainage, from that of 1936, was also noted by examination during August.

Coconino Forest

The Coconino reports two small areas where a small amount of damage has been done during the past few years. These areas consist of a few groups of mature and immature ponderosa pine, which have been killed by Dendroctonus and Ips beetles. The forest is planning to do control work on these two areas. By cutting and disposing of a few trees at this time, it is believed the spread of the beetles to new trees can be controlled.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C.W.POOLER, Regional Forester

By Quincy Randles, Acting.